IN THE CLAIMS

In this Response, Claims 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 35, 36, 38 and 48 have been amended.

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the medical device is a stent.

3. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

4. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 3, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

5. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, comprising:

(a) a first layer ~~containing~~including a drug and a polymer;

(b) a second layer ~~containing~~including a polymer disposed over the first layer; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the second layer, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

Claim 6 (canceled).

7. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound is additionally included in the first layer.

8. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a drug layer ~~containing~~including a drug and a polymer;

(b) a topcoat layer disposed over the drug layer, wherein the topcoat layer is free from any drugs; and

(c) a film-forming layer disposed over the topcoat layer, wherein a light- and/or UV-protective compound is included in the film-forming layer.

9. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a drug layer ~~containing~~including a drug and a polymer; and

(b) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the drug layer, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

10. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 9, additionally comprising:

a polymeric primer layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the drug layer.

11. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 9, wherein the medical device is a stent.

15. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, comprising forming a coating onto a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a first layer ~~containing~~including a drug and a polymer, a second layer ~~containing~~including a polymer disposed over the first layer, and a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the second layer, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, comprising forming a coating on a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a drug layer ~~containing~~including a drug and a polymer, a topcoat layer disposed over the drug layer, the topcoat layer being free from any drugs, and a film-forming layer disposed over the topcoat layer, wherein a light- and/or UV-protective compound is included in the film-forming layer.

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound is additionally included in the ~~drug~~first layer.

Claim 22 (canceled).

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the coating additionally ~~comprising~~comprises a polymeric primer layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the ~~drug~~first layer.

24. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

25. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the second layer is free from any drugs.

26. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, comprising one or more layers of coating material, wherein at least one of the layers of the coating material includes a polymer, a drug and a compound capable of absorbing radiation having a wavelength in the UV

and/or visible light spectrum, and wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the second layer is free from any drugs.

28. (previously presented) A method for fabricating a medical article, comprising applying a coating formulation to the medical article, the coating formulation including:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the medical article is a stent.

30. (currently amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

31. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 9, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the medical device is a stent.

33. (previously presented) A coating for a medical article, comprising:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

34. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the medical device is a stent.

35. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

Claim 35A (canceled).

36. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the medical device is a stent.

38. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.

39. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the thickness of the second layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

40. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the medical device is a stent.

41. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the thickness of the film-forming layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

42. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the thickness of the second layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

43. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the thickness of the film-forming layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

44. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the second layer is configured to reduce a rate of release of the drug from the first layer after the medical device is inserted into a patient.

45. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the second layer is configured to reduce a rate of release of the drug from the first layer after the medical device is inserted into a patient.

46. (previously presented) A method of coating a medical device, comprising applying a first coating composition including a drug and a polymer to the medical device, and applying a second coating composition over the first coating composition, the second coating composition including a polymer and a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second composition is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

47. (previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the medical device is a stent.

48. (currently amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black, titanium-nitride-oxide or gold.